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News Release ~ Communiqué

Ministers Dupuy and Manley receive report on direct-to-home satellite distribution

OTTAWA, April 6, 1995 - Canadian Heritage Minister Michel Dupuy and Industry Minister John Manley today received the report of the Direct-to-Home Satellite (DTH) Policy Review Panel.

The Panel, composed of Gordon Ritchie, Roger Tassé, and Robert Rabinovitch, was appointed on Nov. 29, 1994. They were asked to review public submissions and provide recommendations on DTH policy.

The review was made necessary by the introduction of new high-powered satellites capable of distributing broadcasting and telecommunications signals to all of North America. These satellites, combined with digital technology, will have an impact on Canadian broadcasting and telecommunications industries.

The Ministers will review the Panel's report, study its recommendations, and consult with their Cabinet colleagues.

The Ministers thanked the nearly 500 individuals and groups who made submissions to the Panel Review. "There are many competing voices and interests in this vital aspect of Information Highway-building," the Ministers said. "Our job will be to develop a DTH policy that is consistent with the Government's policy on competition and which will reinforce Canadian sovereignty and cultural identity."

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